

**Meeting of the Village Water/Sewer Commissioners
Monday March 23, 2015
Main Street Fire Station, 43 South Main Street**

Present: P. H. Flanders, R. Finucane, and C. Parks, Commissioners; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; A. Tuscany, Public Works Director.

Public: Caitlin Hollister, David DiDomenico.

P. H. Flanders called the meeting to order at 4:35pm.

CONSIDER MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

The commissioners considered the agenda. Parks asked to add discussion about “bill stuffers” to inform customers about running water during winter conditions. Flanders asked to add discussion about the dog park.

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC

No comments from the public.

BILL STUFFERS

C. Parks wondered if “stuffers” should be sent with the November bill, advising customers as to how to run water to prevent freezing. Flanders wondered why give that advice, expecting that too many people would follow that advice unnecessarily. Flanders suggested that the water superintendent could keep track of those who had service freeze ups and then advise those folks to run a “pencil stream” to prevent future freezes. Customers would be responsible for the cost of running the water, if they chose to do so.

DISCUSSION OF ARNOT WATER & SEWER SYSTEMS

The Commissioners have read the letter sent by Paul Arnot to A. Tuscany. Last week, Tuscany met with Arnot to discuss his concerns. Tuscany distributed the memo to be distributed to Arnot detailing testing of sewer lines, necessary from Tuscany’s point of view, that need to be completed successfully before taking over the system.

Parks asked if the issues of concern were construction or design based. Tuscany stated that he may have asked for additional stone bedding. However, he said the issues are more related to the site. Flanders and Parks expressed concern that even if tests were successfully passed, that the issues could re-occur in time given site conditions. It was suggested that perhaps tests should be done, issues corrected and then a period of 2-5 years should pass before the Village takes over the system.

Shepeluk asked about the water system in Arnot’s development. Tuscany stated that it appears “okay”. Bill Woodruff needs to check valves for proper working order. Tuscany wasn’t too concerned about site conditions affecting the water lines. He said, “Ductile iron pipe is pretty forgiving?”

R. Finucane made a motion that the Village will take over the sewer mains in Arnot’s “Commons Development” no earlier than two years from the time all issues identified by PWD Tuscany or through field testing are fixed, provided a second round of testing is conducted and successfully completed at the end of the waiting period and before the village

accepts ownership of the system. The motion was seconded by C. Parks and passed unanimously.

USE OF RESERVE FUNDS

The Commissioners reviewed financial statements and investments for the water and sewer departments. The Commissioners asked that the investment policy be updated. Finucane suggested that index funds be an allowable asset to hold in the water and sewer funds. The board would like to consider using some of the invested water funds to reduce rates.

UNACCOUNTED WATER USE

The Commissioners asked staff to renew efforts to measure unaccounted water in the system. Tuscany suggested comparing the water meters at the plant to all customer meters, taking into consideration mobile homes as well as Peck's trailer park on Kneeland Flats. The master meter to the Duxbury-Moretown Fire District #1 would also be compared to their meters. Flanders also requested that staff look into how much time is used to read meters and prepare bills, and how much time can be saved by eliminating one reading.

DOG PARK

Flanders discussed the dog park that is being constructed at the current ice center site in the Village. He suggested that the board would be in favor of the water department employees installing a water line from the ice center to the dog park site at the Village's expense. No further action was taken.

MONTHLY REPORTS

The report of the Public Works Director was distributed (attached). A. Tuscany gave a brief review of the reports and apologized that there were no water or sewer reports available for review this month.

MINUTES

R. Finucane made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23rd meeting. The motion was seconded by C. Parks and passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm.

The next meeting of the Water and Sewer Commissioners will be on April 27. There will not be a regularly scheduled meeting in May due to the holiday, and instead the June meeting will be moved to June 8th.

Respectfully submitted,

William Shepeluk, Manager

Approved by: _____

Date: _____